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NEWS RELEASE

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Statement From R.I. Education Commissioner Peter McWalters on the Departure of Providence Schools Superintendent Diana Lam

Peter McWalters, commissioner of elementary and secondary education, has released the following statement on the departure of Diana Lam, superintendent of the Providence Schools, for a new post in the New York City public schools:

“In her three years in Providence, Diana Lam has laid the foundation for serious school reform. Her emphasis on standards-based education, her unrelenting focus on literacy, and her commitment to the creation of small learning communities in the high schools has been an inspiration. She has been a tireless advocate for public education in Rhode Island. Through her efforts, major foundations such as the Carnegie Corporation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Wallace-Reader’s Digest Funds have come forward with financial support for the Providence Public Schools.

“Though Diana Lam’s departure undeniably comes as a blow to us all, we will not in any way let this reduce our commitment to carrying forward the positive changes that have begun and to bringing the reforms to completion.

“I will personally support the Providence School Board and work with the leadership of the city, the School Department administration, and the unions to ensure that we continue the important work that has been begun in these past three years.”